THE Acorn

Drew University Madison, New Jersey 07940 Vol. LXIV No. 12 Monday, December 8, 1986

WMNJ update

By Dale Peck
Staff Writer

THE largest organization on campus, with an active staff of 110, is the "voice of Drew University," WMNJ. However, WMNJ is in danger of being shut down by the FCC if it doesn't get $20,000 to increase its wattage from ten to 100 watts.

The situation, as explained by WMNJ director Gary Powell, was created when the FCC began phasing out all stations with less than 100 watts a few years ago. WMNJ applied to the FCC for increased wattage two years ago, and are still awaiting and answer. If the station's request is approved, they will have 90 days to complete the changeover, which will result in a 351 percent increase in the station's reception area, to 51 square miles. As long as the station remains at 10 watts, they are in danger of being phased out by the FCC, or of anther, larger station taking their frequency.

Powell said, "A lot of colleges would love our spot. There's a limited number of frequencies available for college radio stations.

The problem, according to Community Relations Director Colleen Dube, is "We have to raise $20,000." She said that "two or three years ago," when WMNJ first asked for the money, ECAB approved the request. Now, however, the Board wants some sign of community benefit from the station in return for the money. Dube said she has spoken to Dean Paolo Cucchi and to the faculty in her search for expanding the station's benefit to the campus.

Ken Long, ECAB Chairman, said that ECAB hasn't made any decisions yet. He said that they are still reviewing their options.

Dube said that, "If worse comes to worst, we'll go to the Trustees." This remark is made in response to the fear that ECAB cannot or will not give the radio station the money it needs. Powell said he considers this the probable plan of aciton, since it is the Board of Trustees which owns the radio station.

The plan, as outlined by Powell, would involve a $20,000 loan from the Trustees. This loan would be paid back at, "hopefully, around $3,000 a year."

The radio station is making plans to pay back this loan. A temporary measure is a planned record sale in December. Dube also hopes to get local businesses to sponsor radio shows. A sponsorship would cost $30, and Dube is hopeful of getting 100 businesses a year, which would cover the cost of paying back the loan. If not, the remaining money would be requested from ECAB.

Powell wished to emphasize the radio station as a capital part of the school community. "We're not like other clubs--students can see where their money's gone." This money is represented in the two new studios, and the sophisticated equipment the station has in its possession.

The radio station encountered more difficulty over Thanksgiving vacation as independent contractors hired to repair the roof of Tolley did $2,000 worth of damage to the station's antenna, cable and transmitter, according to Air Staff Director Melissa Kennedy.

The antenna, which had been laid down in a metal casing, was removed by the workers "without our permission, without anybody's permission," Kennedy said.

They replaced the antenna with what Kennedy said she believed to be rope and tar.

The transmitter sent power out through a cable on the roof, the Air Staff Director explained, and the vacuum seal in the cable that is crucial to its operation was damaged.

When station personnel attempted to start up the station after the holiday, the power returned to the transmitter since the cable was broken. This ruined the transmitter.

Kennedy said the school has said it will pay for the damages.

"We don't know when the antenna will be fixed," said Dube.

Acorn Photo/Mike Lief

Sophomore Larry Barisic was just one of the many students whose parents secretly ordered fruit baskets for their children as part of the Commuter Council's annual fund-raising fruit basket sale.

Falk on nuclear age

By Liz Ahearn
Staff Writer

THE Drew M.A. Program in International Affairs presented Richard A.Falk of Princeton University speaking on "Reinventing Democracy in the Nuclear Age." He spoke to a crowd of over 100 in Great Hall on November 24.

Falk is a prolific writer and teacher, whose entire academic career has been pervaded by his deep interest in human rights.

In his address, Falk considered the issues concerning the nuclear age and arms race and its real and possible repercussions, as well as the development of a unified governmental democracy that could possibly counteract and address these vital problems facing our world today.

He began by stating that he was mainly interested in "political conditions needed in our world that can get at big problems such as poverty, oppression, ecological decay and large-scale war."

In addition, Falk emphasized "the need to understand the complexities of our world and the existing forms of interdependence" but that "we can't rely on finding security through nuclear weapons for reliance and assistance of "nuclearism" for it dooms the whole world project even if the weapons are not used." He believes that they are greatly detrimental "...just by being there." He stated that "these weapons freeze the political imagination and make it impossible to survive for our well-being."

Falk pointed out the dilemmas facing us in this goal of continental unity and the challenges inherent "in the features of the present period which is caught up in a significant swirl of disillusionment so that the idea of inventing a world of unity seems a remote and grandiose conjecture." He said that he believes we need to approach the unification issue carefully and with hope despite a history of "failed Utopias."

In sum, Falk said he believes that in developing a unification of nations in a democratic union, our world problems, especially the risk of full-scale nuclear war, could be addressed more safely and efficiently. He called our modern system merely a 'Band-Aid Solution."

Infirmary questioned

By Ray Smith
News Editor

In the wake of a case in which a Drew freshman's appendicitis progressed into life-threatening peritonitis after the infirmary was unable to correctly diagnose his condition have come a number of charges of misdiagnosis at the infirmary.

But according to infirmary Medical Director Donald Wernsing, M.D., who was not directly involved in the case, the infirmary nurses' treatment was proper considering the nature of the student's symptoms and the results of his examinations.

The student who suffered from appendicitis said that he had gone to the infirmary complaining of stomach pains and had been given an inadequate examination.

"I told the nurse what was wrong with me," the student said, "and she told me 'You have the flu. I had the same thing.' She diagnosed me with her symptoms." He said the nurse gave him anti-diarrheal medicine and told him that the pain would persist for about five days.

The student said that when he returned to tell the nurse that he did not need anti-diarrheal medicine, he was told that his "system was out of line" and that he needed to drink warm, clear liquids and to eat properly.

When he returned less than five hours later, "doubled over in pain," he said that he was examined and still found to not be suffering from anything serious, although at that time the nurses offered to have him stay in the infirmary for observation.

The student said that he returned to the infirmary again eight hours later after his condition worsened greatly and was told that there was "nothing they could do."

After declining another offer to stay in the infirmary as well as an offer to go to the hospital, which he said was not presented as a necessary step, he returned to his room until the pain became so intense that he returned to the infirmary and asked to be taken to the hospital.

As a result of the delay in treatment, the student's condition worsened until his appendix ruptured, resulting in peritonitis, the flooding of the abdominal sac with bacteria, which can lead to death within hours.

Soon after his arrival at Morristown Memorial Hospital some 34 hours after his initial visit to the infirmary, the student underwent surgery and follow-up medical care which kept him hospitalized for over two weeks. The student said that he was told at the hospital that if he had been sent to the hospital earlier he would have been back in school in two days.

The student's mother said she was most upset by the fact that the infirmary at no time took her son's temperature or did bloodwork, which might have revealed an abnormally high white blood cell count.

"I think the school need to look at their procedures. There are things that R.N.'s (registered nurses) should be able to recognize," the student's mother said.

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